

Title IV: Vocational Rehabilitation

Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) – Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)

Authorization for Vocational Rehabilitation Services:

- Arizona Revised Statutes §41-1954(A)(3), § 23-502, 23-503.01, 23-504, 23-506, 23-507, 46-134(2)
- Title IV, Rehabilitation Act within the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Purpose for Vocational Rehabilitation:

- To increase employment opportunities and employment outcomes for persons with disabilities.

Eligibility for Services:

1. The applicant has a physical or mental impairment;
2. The applicant's physical or mental impairment constitutes or results in a substantial impediment(s) to employment;
3. The applicant requires VR services to prepare for, secure, retain, or regain employment; and
4. The applicant benefit from the provision of VR services in terms of an employment outcome.

Vocational Rehabilitation Service Delivery System

There are **40** offices statewide that are divided into two geographic regions and one region defined by disability:

- Region 1: Maricopa County and Northern Arizona
- Region 2: Pima County and Southern Arizona
- Region 3: Statewide Services for the Blind, Visually Impaired and Deaf

There are **specialty counselors** in each region with expertise and specialized training to meet the unique needs various client populations.

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| • Behavioral Health | • Developmental Disabilities |
| • Transition | • Blind/Visually Impaired |
| • Spinal Cord/Traumatic Brain Injury | • Deaf/Hard of Hearing |

Services are provided statewide through a contracted vendor system.

WIOA's Significant Changes

WIOA Title IV largely maintains WIA's Purpose and Target Population for Vocational Rehabilitation with the following significant changes:

- Required coordination between Core Programs to integrate vocational rehabilitation with workforce preparation and training activities
- Prioritized service provision to youth with transition services
 - Minimum of 15% of the Federal Funds set aside to assist youth with disabilities transition from secondary school to post-secondary education and employment opportunities.
- Dedicates half of the Federal Supported Employment program funds to provide youth with the most significant disabilities with the supports they need to enable them to obtain competitive integrated employment
- Transitioned Independent Living programs to the Department of Health and Human Services
- Repealed several projects under the Rehabilitation Act
 - Projects with Industry
 - Recreation Programs
 - In-service Training
 - Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program

Major Service Delivery Changes for Vocational Rehabilitation:

- Ability to prioritize services to students with disabilities
- Emphasize the need for youth to have more opportunities to practice and improve their workplace skills, to consider career interests, and to get real world work experience
- Required to make "pre-employment transition services" (PETS) available to all students with disabilities
- Reinforced ability to support advanced training in the STEM and other technical professions

Major Performance Accountability Changes for Vocational Rehabilitation:

- All core WIOA programs accountable to common performance measures
 - All of the performance measures are new for Vocational Rehabilitation
- Will no longer use Standards & Indicators to measure success

Contact Information

Website: www.azdes.gov/rehabilitation_services/

WIOA Updates: www.azdes.gov/wioa/

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